

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-20 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1-20 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-20 remain at issue.

#### **I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, based on noted indefinite informalities in these claims. Applicants have amended the claims to correct for the noted indefinite informalities and Applicant respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

#### **II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims and 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 14, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being purportedly anticipated by *Shigeta* (US Patent No. 6,667,974). Claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10 11, 12, 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being purportedly unpatentable over *Shigeta* as applied to claim 1, in view of *Samadi et al*, (US Pat. 5,664,007).

Though Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections, in order to expedite allowance, Applicants have amended the claims without prejudice. However, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the original claims in subsequent applications.

With respect to independent claim 1 as amended and referring to Figs. 7-8 as an illustrative example, Applicants claim a communications relay device 710 operatively connected between an external network and a local network in which a plurality of control terminals 720 and 730 are connected to the local network. The claimed communications relay device comprises the following limitations:

*session control means [ 711] for controlling a-session status of a data communication session on a first [720] of the plurality of control terminals in which data associated with the session is received from the external network and for controlling access to the session in accordance with a processing request [e.g., a pause, list, resume, or call request] received from one of the control terminals[ 720 or 730].*

*address conversion means [712] for converting a destination address of data associated with the session, wherein:*

*when the processing request is a resume request [as shown in Fig. 8], said session control means rewrites the session status in accordance with the resume request from said one control terminal [720 or 730], and outputs an address rewrite processing request to said address conversion means, and said address conversion means rewrites the destination address associated with the session based on the address rewrite processing request from said session control means.*

Applicants teach that a data communication session on a control terminal refers to a user communication session associated with one of a plurality of application sessions (e.g., a movie or phone session over IP) running on a respective control terminal as depicted, for example, in Fig. 9 (e.g., movie and private phone sessions on “pc before” associated with “user before”). Applicants further teach and claim that a user on one control terminal connected to the claimed communications relay device is able to access a data communication session on the first control terminal by sending a processing request (e.g., a resume request) to the session control means to cause the data communication session to be switched or copied to the one control terminal. See Application, at pg. 29-33; Figs. 12 and 13.

In contrast, *Shigeta* discloses a packet repeater machine 130 that is operated configured to “forward” all data packets sent to one local server machine (e.g., FTP servers 141a-c or mail servers 141d-e) to another local server machine without regard to a communication session associated with a portion of the data packets, by rewriting the destination local address of each data packet to the “forward destination address” when the destination local address matches the “forward origination address” in the forward table 132 in the packet repeater machine 30. *See Shigeta*, Col. 4 line 35 - Col. 5 line 55; Figs. 1-2. Thus, *Shigeta* fails to disclose (alone or in combination with any other cited reference) a communications relay device having a “session control means” as taught and claimed by the Applicants. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and should be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Independent claims 9, 15, and 20 have limitations similar to claim 1 and, thus, should also be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9 and, thus, should be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 9.

Claims 16-19 depend from claim 15 and, thus, should be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

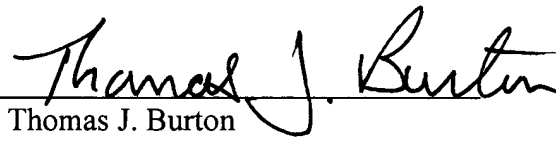
**III. Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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